

Message Text

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53

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5914

UNCLAS BANGKOK 13142

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, TH

SUBJ: THANAT ON HIS NLA BILL

FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISOR THANAT KHOMAN HELD A PRESS
CONFERENCE AUGUST 9. FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL USIS
TRANSLATION OF HIS COMMENTS ON HIS NLA BILL.

THANAT: ...SHOULD AMERICA PULL OUT COMPLETELY,
WOULD WE BE ABLE TO STAND ON OUR OWN FEET AND BE FULLY
SELF-DEPENDENT? IF WE COULD NOT, IT WOULD BE OUR MIS-
FORTUNE. IN THE PAST AND WITHOUT AMERICA, WE WERE ABLE
TO STAND ON OUR OWN FEET, AND LONG BEFORE AMERICAN
MILITARY FORCES CAME AND WERE STATIONED HERE...DO YOU
BELIEVE THAT WE ARE STRONG NOW? I DON'T BELIEVE THAT.
I SAY THAT WE ARE WEAKER THAN IN THE PAST.

REPORTER: IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS WE SHOULD IMPLEMENT
IT OURSELVES WITH NO NEED TO DEPEND ON ANYBODY OUTSIDE...

THANAT: YOU SUFFER FROM A MISUNDERSTANDING AND
STILL BELIEVE THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS BILL IS TO
COMPLETELY CHASE AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES OUT OF OUR
COUNTRY. THAT IS NOT THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS BILL AT ALL.
GO AND READ IT. IT HAS NO SUCH SPECIFICATION OR OBJECTIVE
AT ALL, BUT IT IS TO PREVENT ALIENS OR FOREIGNERS FROM
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COMING AND PLACING THEIR SOVEREIGNTY ABOVE THAI SOVEREIGNTY

IN THAI TERRITORY. THAT IS ALL, AND IT MEANS THAT WHEN
ALLIENS COME ITO THAILAND THEY MUST OBTAIN BENEFITS WHICH
ARE SUITABLE, BUT NOT POLITICAL BENEFITS OR INTERESTS.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS BILL IS TO SAFEGUARD THAI SOVEREIGNTY
ON THAI SOIL, AND THIS IS ITS MAIN OBJECTIVE, THEREFORE
ANYBODY WHO BELIEVES THAT IT IS A BILL TO CHASE FOREIGN
MILITARY FORCES OUT OF OUR COUNTRY IS SUFFERING FROM A
TOTAL MISUNDERSTANDING OF IT. THERE IS NO SPECIFICATION
WHATSOEVER IN THIS BILL THAT FOREIGN FORCES MUST BE
WITHDRAWN WITHIN 24 HOURS, OR ONE WEEK, OR ANYTHING LIKE
THAT AT ALL. THE ONLY OBJECTIVE IS TO SAFEGUARD THAI
SOVEREIGNTY, TO PREVENT ANY REPERCUSSIONS TO BE CAUSED
OR FOR ANY FOREIGN NATION TO SHOW CONTEMPT OR TO TRAMPLE
IT UNDERFOOT.
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